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A CHOICE OF BIRDS

By ALTHEA R. SHERMAN

In the case of the weather we take whatever comes to us; in the case of the birds it grows more and more evident that henceforth we must take what is brought to us: The pests brought to us from foreign lands along with a few pests bred by neighbors and forced on us. Fortunately an exclusion act was quickly passed in the case of parrots with their infectious fever, but far different has been our country's fate in connection with other bird importations. Long have scientists been aware of the dangers attending the introduction of exotic bird life. We have heard that the Brooklyn Father was warned by the British against taking their sparrow to America. Zoologists constantly reiterate warnings against allowing foreign animal life to displace our native fauna, yet the evil continues. Starlings and Ringnecked Pheasants now are taking the places of far more valuable native birds; even as I write these lines there passes my window one of the latter noxious aliens that scourges Iowa farmers.

The evil of displacement is not confined to the work of foreign birds. There is the case of the Bluebird, which could it speak would refer to its wounds as "Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends." The cruel injury to the Bluebird has been done without intention. It has been done in part through ignorance, in part through avarice, and in part through the unfeeling prejudice of those who dote on the House Wren. With the best of motives teachers have encouraged their pupils to make and put in place boxes for Bluebirds. Probably nine-tenths of the boxes intended for them have been used by breeding English Sparrows and House Wrens, thereby increasing the Bluebirds' worst enemies. A bird box intrusted to a child is a dangerous thing, in fact it is a safe device only in the hands of those willing to watch it closely and to learn the character of the creatures that occupy it, and those creatures are not always birds. There are hundreds of people all over our land who have done such watching and as a result have taken down their bird boxes. They have found the House Wren a greater menace to Bluebirds than is the English Sparrow. This wren not only destroys the Bluebird's eggs, but has been seen killing its callow young, also the young of other species. Before the craze for bird boxes started the House Wren kept its place in the scheme of nature and Bluebirds were more numerous than at present.

Within the past twenty-seven years, according to a conservative estimate, I have spent approximately two thousand hours in watching the home life of five hole nesting birds. Two of these, the Screech Owl and the Chimney Swift, have been watched at night as well as by day. The nest life of all has been observed at no greater distance than twelve to eighteen inches from the eye. All have afforded excellent opportunities for intensive nest life study, but the conviction came sooner or later that breeding Screech Owls, Sparrow Hawks, and

House Wrens ought not to be tolerated about places that serve to attract harmless birds. Concerning the remaining two species, the Northern Flicker and the Chimney Swift, a volume could be filled with the cheering story of their home life and the joys of living in close companionship with these birds. They are as nearly blameless as possible in their relations to other birds and are a safe choice when attracting birds.

This unique structure stands near Miss Sherman's home at National, Iowa, and was built for the purpose of studying the nesting of the Chimney Swift. The tower, which encloses a specially built chimney, is nine feet square and from the ground to the top of the chimney is almost thirty feet high, while the simulate chimney, built of boards, is two feet square and about fourteen feet deep. The building is reserved for Chimney Swifts alone, and for many years they have occupied the chimney home provided for them. Through peepholes in the chimney, Miss Sherman has spent many hours watching the behavior of the nesting swifts. —Ed.



At present no special danger seems to be threatening the Chimney Swifts, but reduction to the verge of extinction threatens the Flickers unless Americans awaken to a recognition of their peril and declare war on the Starling, the arch enemy of all woodpeckers. There are people in America who claim that the Starling is a desirable bird. When this is denied, they point to the words of British authors who have called it a "harmless bird," an "engaging bird" or similar complimentary terms, evidently said by writers who never watched the Starling's nefarious warfare upon the woodpeckers of their country. In one edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica we can find such laudation of the Starling, but in the same edition under the topic "Birds" it says of the Starling "it constantly dispossesses the Green Woodpecker." What then is the status of woodpeckers in the native lands of this nest robber? H. F. Witherby says, regarding the three woodpeckers that are resident in Great Britain, that they are wanting in many portions of the country and scarce in other parts. Americans have spent weeks in that island, looking for birds, without seeing one woodpecker. My own fruitless efforts covered seven weeks, and others have had a similar experience. Moreover, only three Old World woodpeckers were seen

by me on a journey of upward of thirty thousand miles, that touched upon twenty countries where Starlings are found. One of the three woodpeckers was seen in Delhi, India, another in Hnefos, Norway, and the third near Stockholm, Sweden. Those who have watched the ruthless Starling usurping a woodpecker's hole understand the reason for the scarcity of the latter species in the Old World. They foresee a like fate awaiting our woodpeckers, especially when they recall that about Nashville, Tennessee, 75,000 Starlings were seen, when the Christmas Bird Census was taken.

The food habits of a bird may be as harmless as are those of the gods, that on high Olympus dwell, and yet that bird may be a very demon of destruction among other birds. In this class may be put the Starling and the House Wren although the habits of neither are harmless, especially of the latter when sucking the eggs of other species. If a person does not choose to have these vicious birds about his home, he need not fear that the fields and gardens will suffer because of their absence. The birds they have displaced will return to eat the insects; there will be the woodpeckers, warblers, and vireos, the Chipping Sparrows, Chickadees and Bluebirds; birds with songs quite as pleasing, with forms and colors far more beautiful.

(Reprinted from "The National Plant, Flower and Fruit Guild Magazine" for March, 1930.)

OUR NINTH ANNUAL MEETING

By MRS. MARY L. BAILEY

The ninth annual meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, held at Cedar Rapids May 8 and 9, was a very enjoyable one and was well worth attending, due to the kindness and courtesy of the Cedar Rapids Bird Club who made all the arrangements, and to Dr. Roberts who was chairman of the Program Committee. The Montrose Hotel was the headquarters for the meeting and most of the guests were registered there. The indoor sessions were held in the Crystal Ballroom of the hotel.

The meeting was opened by the President, Walter W. Bennett, at 9:00 A. M. Friday, May 8. Prof. W. F. Kubichek, of Coe College, welcomed the guests and made the announcements.

The first paper was entitled "Some Recent Interesting Birds Found in the Sioux City Region" (20 min.) and was read by Mrs. Mary L. Bailey. She spoke especially of her record of the Cory's Bittern and cited other unusual birds observed by her in the region under consideration. Due to the absence of Warren N. Keck, his paper on "Classification of Birds" was read by title.

The next paper was "Seven Years of Bird Banding" (20 min.) by Mrs. J. A. Dales, of Sioux City. She gave many interesting observations on the birds banded in her traps, some of which traps were made by herself to fit her particular needs, those over the bird bath and under the Purple Martin house being especially worth mentioning. I think Mrs. Dales holds the record for Iowa for number of birds banded.

Dr. G. O. Hendrickson, of Ames, gave an interesting talk on "Roadside Mortality of Birds" (20 min.). He gave his deductions as to the reasons for this mortality, especially in the case of the Red-headed Woodpecker.

Mrs. Jennie Pratt, of Cedar Rapids, talked on "Feeding Stations for Birds" (15 min.), speaking first of the large bird refuges, then of those established in or near cities and small towns, and then of the smaller feeding trays around the homes. She pointed out the value of each.

Dr. B. Shimek, in his talk on "Birds and Berries" (30 min., illustrated by lantern slides), said that in his many years of bird study he had observed that birds preferred the wild fruits to the cultivated kinds, and he recommended that we save our orchards by planting trees bearing native fruits. He gave a most entertaining talk on the former abundance of certain species of birds which have now become entirely extinct or are fast disappearing because of the cutting out of their habitat. This practice, he believes, has done as much to deplete their numbers as the hunter who wasted so shamefully when the birds were plentiful. He spoke of having kept records of birds seen over a per-

led of fifty-five years—a long time for Iowa bird records. At the conclusion of this talk a motion was made asking Dr. Shimek to prepare for the Iowa Ornithologists' Union a paper giving his records with field notes and comments of the early years of his bird study, so that they may be preserved for the future.

Dr. Charles R. Keyes, of Cornell College, gave us an interesting talk—"Reminiscences" (20 min.)—on the earliest society in Iowa devoted to the study of its bird life. This society was called the Iowa Ornithological Association and was organized in June, 1894. The annual meetings were called 'Congresses' and four were held during the life of the society at Ames, Manchester, Mount Vernon and Iowa City. "The Iowa Ornithologist," the monthly magazine published by the Association, ran through some four volumes before it was discontinued. It was edited by David L. Savage. Besides Dr. Keyes, the membership of this early society included Paul Bartsch, Carleton Ball, Carl Fritz Henning, Guy C. Rich, Morton E. Peck, and many others. Dr. Keyes told of visiting Mr. Savage at Salem, Iowa, last summer and of viewing his vast library of 24,000 volumes, 4000 of which are duplicates. Most of the rooms in Mr. Savage's modest farm home are lined with bookshelves, he said.

Mrs. Toni Wendelburg gave a talk on "Junior Bird Clubs" (20 min.), telling in her usual delightful manner of some of the junior clubs with which she has been connected in Des Moines.

A half hour was given to inspection of the 'Little Gallery' of Art, where many fine original paintings and etchings of birds by Major Allan Brooks, E. R. Kalmbach, Charles Hile, and others were exhibited. There were also a number of rare editions of bird books displayed, among them Audubon and Wilson. Most of these were brought from the University library at Iowa City.

After lunch Dr. C. E. Ehinger, of Keokuk, read a paper on "The Importance of Ornithological Instruction for Youth" (30 min.) and gave many good points on the subject.

The Round Table discussion on "Conservation" (45 min.) was conducted by Dr. Shimek. He made a plea to allow all drained lands that have proved useless to go back to the original swamp and thus provide a breeding place or at least a resting place for shore-birds and waterfowl. Mr. Klingaman, of the Davenport Public Museum asked that the Union take steps to regulate the number of permits issued for taking birds for scientific purposes on account of the number of persons who abuse this privilege.

Walter Roene gave a talk on "Keeping Bird Records" (20 min.). He displayed his various record books and described his method of keeping records over a period of years which he has found very convenient.

One of the best things on the program was Prof. Kubichek's "Grebes and Other Water Birds" (40 min.), illustrated with lantern slides and motion pictures. Especially interesting was the series on the Holboell's Grebe and the Western Willet. It was an exceedingly fine set of pictures.

In the business meeting which followed a motion was made to make all dues payable on January 1st, instead of having some who pay at the meetings held over until the next meeting. All dues are to be first turned over to the Secretary, and new members paying after the first of November are to be considered members for the following year. The following officers were elected for one year: President, Dr. F. L. R. Roberts, Iowa City; Vice-president, Miss Myra G. Willis, Cedar Rapids; Secretary, Mrs. Mary L. Bailey, Sioux City; Treasurer, Oscar P. Allert, McGregor; Editor, Fred J. Pierce, Winthrop; Assistant Editor, C. E. Hoskinson, Clarinda. Executive Committee: Walter W. Bennett, Sioux City; Dr. G. O. Hendrickson, Ames; Dr. C. E. Ehinger, Keokuk.

The banquet was served to nearly fifty people in the banquet room of the hotel. Mr. Hugh Orchard, of Cedar Rapids, acted as toastmaster and he called on Miss Willis and Messrs. Hendrickson, Pierce, Palas, and Bennett for short talks. A piano solo, "The Robin's Return," was played by Miss Shonka, and Dempsey Jones, a local entertainer, gave a sketch called "A Day on the Farm," which was made up largely of imitations of bird songs and calls.

After the banquet was over the meeting adjourned to the Crystal Ballroom to hear Walter W. Bennett's talk and to see his moving pictures and slides on "Siyo," the Prairie Chicken of the sandhills of Nebraska. This important feature of the program lasted over an hour and a half and included

3000 feet of film which portrayed the entire life cycle of the Prairie Chicken and also showed many phases of the lives of other birds found in the same environment. These pictures were shown at the American Ornithologists' Union meeting at Salem, Mass., last October. They are as fine a set of pictures as has ever been shown at any of our meetings. A mother Prairie Chicken defending her nest against the raid of a bull snake, and sitting bravely on her eggs during a hail storm, are sights that few eyes have been privileged to see, but through the medium of Mr. Bennett's wonderful films many people will see these things and they will be permanently preserved for bird students of the future.

Saturday, May 9, was to be given over to the field trip, either to the Palisades State Park or to the Amana Colony, but it proved to be too rainy. After waiting several hours for it to clear, we went to Coe College Museum, where we saw many interesting specimens of birds. After the rain had stopped we started for some nearby woods and for two hours we searched for birds, obtaining a list of 62 species. Mr. Palas and Prof. Kubichek added four more in the afternoon. It was a good list for so rainy a day.

After a delightful informal time at the fine luncheon provided at the Country Club by the Cedar Rapids Bird Club, some of us visited the University Museum at Iowa City, where is found the largest collection of mounted birds and bird skins in the state. Among these are 5000 specimens donated by the late D. H. Talbot, of Sioux City.

Most of those attending the meeting returned home satisfied that the Union is every year proving to be stronger and better. This year our membership totals nearly 175. The ninth annual meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union has passed into a memory and we look forward to a better year ahead. Let us all work for this.

BIRDS SEEN ON THE FIELD TRIP: Scaup Duck, Coot, Pectoral Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Bob-white, Ringnecked Pheasant, Mourning Dove, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Barred Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Flicker, Whippoorwill, Chimney Swift, Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Blue Jay, Crow, Cowbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Meadowlark, Baltimore Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, Goldfinch, House Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Towhee, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Purple Martin, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Warbling Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Palm Warbler, Maryland Yellowthroat, Redstart, Mockingbird (Palas and Kubichek), Brown Thrasher, House Wren, Brown Creeper, White-breasted Nuthatch, Tufted Titmouse, Chickadee, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Gray-checked Thrush, Olive-backed Thrush, Robin, Bluebird.

REGISTER OF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: AMES, Dr. G. O. Hendrickson; BOONE, Mrs. Wm. Buzby; BURLINGTON, Miss Kitty Tiedeman; CEDAR RAPIDS, Miss Lillian Serbousek, Mrs. Jennie Pratt, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Petranek, Mrs. F. E. Russell, W. F. Kubichek, Mrs. Thomas B. Powell, Miss Myra Willis, Mrs. W. C. Peck, Miss Lavinia Drago; DAVENPORT, Mr. Klingaman, representing the Davenport Public Museum; DES MOINES, A. J. Palas, Mrs. Toni Wendelburg, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Nelson; DUBUQUE, Mrs. R. W. Johnson; FAIRFIELD, Mrs. J. F. Clarke, Mrs. C. J. Fulton; HUDSON, Mrs. Robert I. Bordner; INDEPENDENCE, Mrs. W. M. Woodward; IOWA CITY, Dr. and Mrs. F. L. Roberts, Dr. and Mrs. B. Shimek; KEOKUK, Dr. C. E. Ehinger; MCGREGOR, Oscar P. Allert; MOUNT VERNON, Dr. Chas. R. Keyes, Harry M. Kelley; SIOUX CITY, Mrs. Mary L. Bailey, Mrs. J. A. Dales, W. W. Bennett; WATERLOO, Harvey L. Nichols; WINTHROP, Fred J. Pierce. There were also a large number of visitors at both the banquet and the meeting.

LITTLE BIOGRAPHIES

My first bird student friend in the state was WALTER M. ROSENE, of Ogden. I first met him at the Ledges State Park in 1926. Carl Fritz Henning,

one custodian, introduced us. Although this was our first acquaintance, Rosene took time from his vacation to take Mrs. Roberts and me on a long bird hike.

At our 1928 convention at Boone he conducted one group on a hike, and when he conducts a hike it is not a stroll. Not that he goes fast enough to miss anything, but he does little loitering. Every minute is spent in bird study. After the first hour or two, members of our party began to take shortcuts back until at the end only four of us were with him. We were well repaid. Walter certainly showed us a lot of birds. I have never been out with anyone else who recognizes bird calls as Walter does. As we were going through one little patch of woods on this convention hike, he remarked that the year before he had heard a Bluewinged Warbler near there. We stopped to listen and away off up the hill he heard a faint buzz. "There it is now," Walter said and we scrambled up a steep slope and found our bird. The song is not very distinctive, yet he had remembered it a year, after having heard it only once before.

Walter M. Rosene was born at Ogden and has lived there practically all of his life. He graduated from the Ogden High School in 1896, at the age of fifteen, having completed the work of eleven years in nine years and then missing only by a fraction of a point being valedictorian. He spent the next few years in the saddlery business, but in 1902 started in as bookkeeper in the bank of which he is now president. The history of this bank, the City State Bank of Ogden, is a story of exceptionally good management. Through some of the worst times in the financial history of Iowa, Rosene has piloted this institution, and it has the reputation of being one of the strongest of any banks of the small towns of Iowa.

Walter's study of birds began in boyhood. He has specialized somewhat on bird songs and bird photography. He was president of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union during the first four years, and is now treasurer of the Wilson Ornithological Club. He has given lectures over the entire state, using slides from pictures he has made in Iowa, North Dakota, and Nebraska. He was director of bird study at the Wild Life School at McGregor for two years. He is also an enthusiastic coin collector, having one of the largest and best collections in the middle west and the largest collection of Iowa currency in existence.—F. L. R. R.

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Another good friend and almost a neighbor of Rosene's is DR. GEORGE O. HENDRICKSON, of Ames. Like Rosene, he is a native Iowan, and born at Earlville in 1890. He graduated from the Buffalo Center High School and later from the Iowa State Teachers' College. In 1926 he received a master of science degree and in 1929 a doctor of philosophy degree from Iowa State College. His major work was entomology.

He has been a teacher most of his adult life. He has taught rural and graded school and was head of the science department, commandant of R. O. T. C. and superintendent of a high school. As a teacher in college he was instructor in nature study at Cornell University, assistant professor of nature study at Iowa State Teachers' College at Cedar Falls, and is now assistant professor at Ames. He has taught ornithology, entomology, general biology, general zoology, methods of teaching zoology, and was assistant in collecting and arranging the museum at Cedar Falls.

He has lectured several hundred times in recent years in various parts of the state on "Bird Study with Children." Dr. Hendrickson has five daughters and one son, all of whom are interested in nature study. It is one of his principles to conduct family projects in animal behavior research. He has had the enviable opportunity of having been closely associated with Dr. E. L. Palmer, Dr. A. H. Wright, Dr. A. A. Allen, and Louis Agassiz Fierstein.

I studied general zoology under Dr. Hendrickson at Ames last year. His teaching gives one a comprehensive understanding of the mechanism of animal life, but more than that, it helps one to form a philosophy of life. G. O. is never impatient, never cynical. He has a clear, deep insight into the underlying principles of life and behavior. We spent many happy hours in the field last year, not only as part of the zoological work, but also as

friends rambling through the woods and over the fields observing birds. My year at Ames will always stand out as one of the best of my life because of companionship with Dr. G. O. Hendrickson.—F. L. R. R.

FIELD NOTES

The Warbler Migration at Hudson, Iowa—Below I am giving a list of the warblers seen at a little wooded creek near my home. During the migration there were birds here in profusion—warblers, thrushes, flycatchers and many others.

Black and White Warbler, May 11 to 16; Blue-winged Warbler, May 5 to 16; Nashville Warbler, May 10 to 14; Orange-crowned Warbler, May 16 to 20; Tennessee Warbler, May 5 to 24; Cape May Warbler (1), May 19; Yellow Warbler, May 8; Myrtle Warbler, April 10 to 19; Magnolia Warbler, May 17 to 20; Chestnut-sided Warbler, May 19-20; Bay-breasted Warbler (1), May 19; Black-poll Warbler, May 3 to 24; Blackburnian Warbler (3), May 17 to 20; Palm Warbler, May 3 to 11; Ovenbird, arrived May 17; Grinnell's Waterthrush, May 3 to May 20; Louisiana Water-thrush (2), May 20 and 23; Mourning Warbler, May 16 to 24; Wilson's Warbler, May 16 to 23; Canada Warbler, May 19 to 24; Redstart, arrived May 8.

With such warblers as the Mourning and Canada I have been glad to see one or two in other years, but in 1931 I saw one to six daily. Redstarts, Ovenbirds, and Wilson's and Tennessee Warblers were also very common. I saw an Olive-sided Flycatcher on May 19 and again on the 20th, the first time I had seen one in the spring, though I always see one in the fall. May 19 was my big day at the creek. I saw 68 species of birds. If I could have gone to a swamp or into the country my list would have been much larger. By May 25 no warblers, thrushes, or flycatchers except the summer residents could be found at the creek.—MRS. ROBERT I. BORDNER, Hudson, Iowa.

Woodcock Nesting at Cedar Falls, Iowa—May 31, 1931, was a red-letter day for me. I have observed birds for 35 years and have always wanted to see a Woodcock, but was never fortunate enough to find one. A friend informed me that Cecil Heath had discovered a female Woodcock with a nest at his fishing camp in the outskirts of east Cedar Falls. So on Sunday, May 31, I went to his place and he showed me the bird and her nest. The nest was located in dense growth of brush about 40 feet from a small swamp. We were able to approach within about four feet of the bird. The nest consisted of a depression in the ground lined with a small amount of grass. It contained four eggs which were about the size of domestic pigeon eggs, but were very pointed. The eggs were a yellowish brown, spotted with dark brown. The next day Harvey Nichols and I went to Mr. Heath's place, but the eggs were hatched and the birds gone.—GEORGE O. FAULKNER, Waterloo, Iowa.

Notes from Clarinda, Iowa—During the stop of a train on which I was riding one day in the last week of April, I observed a pair of English Sparrows that were catching insects much in the manner of flycatchers. Both were catching but not eating—simply disappearing from their perch on the cable which ran from a telegraph pole to an iron post, which had a switch control box attached. On the side opposite from my first observation was an opening to the cap of the iron post, an opening about two inches in diameter and designed for additional cables to be run through. The sparrows were going straight up into this opening to a nest. The nest was very small. I climbed up to see into the cap and could hear the nestlings. The post is not over nine feet tall and right next to the main line of the Burlington, with lots of pedestrian traffic by it because of nearby railroad shops, etc. When the parent birds would return from a feeding they would sit awhile with outstretched wings to cool off. The iron cap could have almost no ventilation and being in the full sunlight, it was very hot inside of it.

Some time ago I noticed in "The Bulletin of Iowa Ornithologists' Union" that Mockingbirds were not often known to nest in Southern Iowa. I have known of their nesting for the last three years in the orchard of a home about six miles southwest of Stanton. Last year there were two pairs.—C. E. HOSKINSON, Clarinda, Iowa.

A Grouse Killed by Flying Against Building—The Ruffed Grouse is frequently met with in the timbered areas of Clayton County. In my fourteen years residence here I have noted no increase or decrease in numbers. They are bothered little, if any, by hunters. No doubt, a certain per cent are taken from every brood hatched, by foxes, skunks, and other carnivora, some of which are plentiful in this region. It has been said that the Ruffed Grouse of the wilder and more remote regions act on the border of stupidity, and that no cleverer bird exists in the more populated sections. As long as we have the suitable timber, we will have this splendid bird. For several days, prior to Oct. 9, 1930, a Grouse was heard calling at intervals, from a weed patch, about 200 feet from the house in which I live, in the village of Giard. About 3 o'clock in the afternoon of the above date, an object struck the side of the house with terrific force, and on investigating the bird was found dead. On skinning the specimen I found the neck broken and the skull fractured. It would be interesting to know how this bird, accustomed to living in close cover, came to fly against the house, which has but three short plum trees to screen it.—O. P. ALLERT, McGregor, Iowa.

Northern Pileated Woodpecker at Backbone State Park—May 21, 1931, was spent at the Backbone State Park, Delaware County, Iowa, in company with George Faulkner and Fred Pierce. We wandered around over the wooded bluffs, looking for birds and finding quite a few, when suddenly I saw a large black bird fly toward the trunk of a tree that stood along "the ridge" in the southern part of the park. I called, "What is that?" and hurried to get a second look, but the bird was very shy and stayed only a moment before he flew out of sight. We all saw it and were sure that it was the Pileated Woodpecker. I noticed its woodpecker-like flight and saw the red crest as it flew away from us. As it lit somewhere up on the hill we heard the loud call—"cock-cock-cock-cock"—given rapidly and sounding somewhat like the Flicker's call, but much louder and easily distinguishable. The bird seemed a little smaller than a Crow. Mr. Faulkner has seen many of the birds in other states, but that was my first. We were anxious to get another view and hunted for some time but with no success. We did find some deep holes drilled into dead trees, however—evidently the work of this large bird.—HARVEY L. NICHOLS, Waterloo, Iowa.

Notes from Iowa City.—My family and I have had an unusually pleasant spring in the field. The greatest number of species that Mrs. Roberts and I saw on any one day was 86. Our best finds this spring were a Sycamore Warbler, a Starling, and a pair of Hudsonian Godwits, all of them new on our life lists. I hope at some future time to write an article comparing bird-life at Spirit Lake, our old home; Ames, where we spent last year; and Iowa City. There are some interesting differences in the bird fauna of these three places.

There is a pond near here called Swan Lake. Of it Mr. Kubichek said, "You can see almost anything on it." It certainly deserves this reputation as far as shore-birds are concerned for, while they are not there in large numbers, there is great variety. We have recorded 17 species there this spring and there were some Black-bellied Plovers there that we did not see. One day we heard that W. F. Kubichek had seen a Hudsonian Godwit there and we envied him the opportunity. A few days later we met him and some of the members of his class, and we found two more Hudsonian Godwits on the pond.

Recently we were at a pond near Cedar Rapids where Mr. Kubichek has found a nest of Starlings, the first recorded nesting in the state. Mr. Kubichek expects to collect these and I hope our members will kill all of these pests as soon as they appear.

We still receive notifications of returns from birds we banded at Spirit Lake. We learned that a White-throated Sparrow, which we banded May 4, 1929, was found dead at Dunlap, Iowa, May 5, 1931, and that a Bronzed Grackle that we banded July 29, 1929, was shot at Arlington, S. D., May 2, 1931.—DR. F. L. R. ROBERTS, Iowa City, Iowa.

With the Birds at Pilot Knob State Park—At Pilot Knob State Park, near Forest City, on the mornings of May 23 and 24, the wood warblers were very

much in evidence. Maryland Yellow-throats at the edges of the marshes, Redstarts in the treetops and Ovenbirds in the deeper woods kept the air ringing with their songs. Several of each of the Magnolia, Connecticut, Black-poll and Black and White Warblers were observed. Bobolinks and pheasants are rather distinctive at this park. Several tamed green-necked Mallards aside yellow pond lilies set in the blue of the lake bordered by the paler green of the steep wooded banks furnished an enjoyable picture. I heard no Cardinal nor did I see one. The Western Meadowlark's song was in predominance.—G. O. HENDRICKSON, Ames, Iowa.

Bad Habits of the Pheasant—In the last number of IOWA BIRD-LIFE information is asked on pheasants killing other birds. Last summer I came upon a female pheasant west of our house that had just emptied a nest of three-day-old Song Sparrows (and one Cowbird), while the parents sat about protesting.—MARGARET M. NICE, Columbus, Ohio.

A Late Snowy Owl in Michigan—I made an unusual record on May 3, 1931. In the marsh lying between Bay City and Saginaw, Michigan, I found a Snowy Owl. It is only occasionally the Snowy Owl is found in this territory in winter, and to find it as late as May 3 seems to be a record. Dr. E. D. Slawson, of Bay City, got one a few years ago on the opening day of the trout season, May 1. Dr. Barrows in his "Michigan Bird Life" records it being seen as late as April.—R. GILLESPIE, Bay City, Mich.

Odd Coloration of a Harris's Sparrow—A field trip made on October 19, 1930, led the writer down West Creek, near Sigourney, Iowa. After leaving the city limits he passed through open forests of magnificent oaks, elms and hickories for a mile, then he came to an open grassy space, just beyond which was a thicket of white thorn bushes, crabapple trees, underbrush and blackberry briars. As might be expected, this place furnished a haven of rest for the many weary fall migrants, then on one of their long semi-annual journeys across the continent.

This thicket seemed alive with birds of many species. There were an abundance of Slate-colored Juncos, some Fox Sparrows, Tree Sparrows, Song Sparrows, White-throated Sparrows, Hermit Thrushes and several others. A number of residents, namely, Blue Jays, Cardinals and Chickadees, were also present to add color and animation to the scene.

But what especially engaged my attention and aroused my interest was the presence of a small flock of Harris's Sparrows. All but one of these were dressed in their normal colors. But instead of his black whiskers and jaunty black golf cap, which every well dressed QUERULA should wear, this peculiar individual wore a black mask, which covered his entire head and neck. The black area of his plumage was substantially that which is red in the Red-headed Woodpecker. A very careful examination with field glasses at a distance of twenty-five feet revealed some small and indistinct brownish gray spots among the black. In color of bill and other characteristics of plumage he was a typical QUERULA. It would be interesting to learn whether any other observer has seen this odd coloration in the Harris's Sparrow.—E. D. NAUMAN, Sigourney, Iowa.

"Birds of Arkansas"—The University of Arkansas has recently issued a very comprehensive and useful work on the "Birds of Arkansas," by Dr. W. J. Baerg. In this book of 200 pages the author presents the results of his ten years of bird work in Arkansas. He has given the bird students of that state, as well as those of neighboring ones, a valuable reference work that helps to link together the ornithological literature of southern United States.

The introductory pages of the book are devoted to a useful outline of various phases of bird study, including informative paragraphs on such topics as the economic value of birds, nests and eggs, migration, migration records, songs of birds, how to attract birds, pests among birds, and classes of migrants. In the list of birds that follows (arranged in the new A. O. U. check-list order), 312 species are treated. Each bird is given a paragraph of description as to color and size, and another showing the range of the bird in the United States and within Arkansas. A brief summary of the bird's habits follows. The

thirty-seven halftone illustrations are very well chosen and add materially to the attractiveness of the volume. An index makes the contents of this worthwhile book readily available. It is sold by the University of Arkansas, at Fayetteville, Ark., for 76 cents a copy, paper-bound edition.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Our President's Letter—I am looking forward with a good deal of pleasure to serving as your president during the coming year. The Union is in a vigorous condition. Our past year has been a particularly successful one. The convention at Cedar Rapids was well attended and admirably planned and executed. We are greatly indebted to the Cedar Rapids Bird Club and especially to W. F. Kubichek.

The last session of the Iowa Legislature was considering a Fish and Game Commission bill which might have been disastrous to Bob-White. Thru the personal endeavor of some of our members this bill was amended and the undesirable parts struck out. Mr. Palas in particular, as well as other members of the Des Moines Audubon Society, was active in the interests of the birds. Former President Walter Bennett made a trip to Des Moines at his own expense to see the Governor and the various committees in the Legislature that were working on this bill. As it stands, it is a fine piece of legislation and we may feel proud that the Iowa Ornithologists' Union actively championed it.

There is a popular demand for a state bird and it is appropriate that we should be active in choosing one. Former president Bennett has asked me to appoint this and other committees proposed at the last convention. I have chosen him and W. M. Rosene for this committee.

Through the courtesy of Dr. May, who was the artist who drew the plate of flying hawks for Forbush's "Birds of Massachusetts," we have had 200 copies of this plate made. This plate helps greatly in the field identification of this difficult group of birds. As these cost about seven cents each, including postage, we do not want to waste any of them. One will be sent free to each paid-up member and should be preserved and used in the field. If you care for more than one, we shall be glad to supply extra copies at cost.

Send in all your important bird news. Let our publication and the Union serve you while you are serving them.—DR. F. L. R. ROBERTS, Iowa City, Iowa, June 10, 1931.

* * *

The appearance of each new state bird book emphasizes the fact that our Iowa list (Anderson, 1907) is now far out of date and that our need for a new one is great. We should like to see our state legislative body make an appropriation sufficient for the preparation and publication of a new "Birds of Iowa."

* * *

We are greatly indebted to Miss Althea R. Sherman, of National, who contributes ten dollars to our publication fund, and to Mr. A. J. Weber, of Keokuk, who contributes five dollars to the fund. These very substantial gifts give our journal extra pages, and since our entire membership is benefited, everyone should feel grateful to these generous members.

New members since our last issue are: George O. Faulkner, Waterloo, Iowa; Mrs. Wells C. Peck, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mrs. Jennie Pratt, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mrs. Celena Stoneman, Winthrop, Iowa; Arthur C. Bent, Taunton, Mass.; J. R. Craigie, Los Angeles, Calif.; Albert F. Ganie, Nashville, Tenn.; Richard Gillespie, Bay City, Mich.; Mrs. Margaret M. Nice, Columbus, Ohio; George D. Peck, Salem, Ore.; Kenneth L. Renoll, Hanover, Pa.; Dr. Guy C. Rich, Hollywood, Calif.; Dr. Thos. S. Roberts, Minneapolis, Minn. IOWA BIRD-LIFE now goes into a dozen states. From far off Belgium comes a request for a sample copy. Truly, our little magazine is becoming widely read!

* * *

Letters From Iowa Ornithologists of Other Days—IOWA BIRD-LIFE is of especial interest to me, as I collected birds and eggs for museums in Iowa for

over thirty years, and I believe I am safe in saying I knew every species of bird in the state.

Prof. Morton E. Peck, who was one of the earliest members of the Iowa Ornithological Association, is my son and is head of the biological department in the Williamette University here in Salem.

In June I shall have reached the age of ninety-two years, but I still have the same interest in bird-life, though I am unable to study them in the fields and woods. I shall enjoy reading the notes on my old friends, the birds of Iowa, and I wish IOWA BIRD-LIFE the best success.—GEORGE D. PECK, Salem, Oregon, April 27, 1931.

(Mr. Peck, who has had the rare privilege of enjoying the companionship of birds for nearly a century, writes in a remarkably clear, steady hand. We believe that he has the distinction of being our oldest member.—Ed.)

I am still interested in the birds of Iowa, and although I cannot see to read about them, it is quite a pleasure to have them read to me. I sigh as I recall the throngs of birds that were found in Iowa in those early days. Every person who has been observing birds for thirty years or more must be a strong conservationist.

The mention of the Whippoorwill gave to me some rather new thoughts. I wonder if they have become as scarce in other localities as about the northwestern part of the state. At two or three places that I recall these birds were to be found each year commonly; ten or twelve years later they were absent.—DR. GUY C. RICH, Hollywood, Calif., April 23, 1931.

* * *

The Tennessee Ornithological Society can feel justly proud of its quarterly journal, "The Migrant," which is edited by George B. Woodring, 1414 Stratton Ave., Nashville, Tenn. Two attractive numbers have been issued so far this year. The general articles include such titles as "The Black Vulture," by Compton Crook, Jr.; "About Nesting Boxes," by A. F. Ganier, illustrated by set-in blue print; "Hawks and Owls," by H. P. Ijams; "Nesting Data on Middle Tennessee Birds," by Vernon Sharp, Jr.; "Summer Warblers of Shelby County," by Ben B. Coffey, Jr. "The Round Table" gives a variety of interesting news notes. A sketch of the Great Horned Owl on the cover gives the journal a very distinctive appearance.

The bird journals published in our neighboring states are always interesting and contain notes of interest to Iowa bird students. "The Flicker" (mimeographed) is issued quarterly by the Minnesota Bird Club (should be addressed in care of the treasurer, Alden Risser, 1012 Laurel Ave., St. Paul, Minn.). The Nebraska Ornithologists' Union issues monthly its mimeographed "Letter of Information" (the secretary is Dr. M. H. Swenk, College of Agriculture, Lincoln, Nebr.). In Michigan there is "The Snowy Egret" (mimeographed), issued monthly at 1120 E. Ann St., Ann Arbor. The official organ of the Illinois Audubon Society is the "Audubon Bulletin," an annual publication.

* * *

The membership list of the American Ornithologists' Union, published in the April issue of "The Auk," gives the names of two Members and nineteen Associates in Iowa. The Members are Miss Althea R. Sherman and Dr. T. C. Stephens, and the Associates are Arthur F. Allen, Oscar P. Allert, Mrs. Mary L. Bailey, Jos. N. Beck, Walter W. Bennett, Miss Eleanor Bruner, Dr. C. E. Ehinger, Mrs. Henry Frankel, Mrs. Beatrice Fulton, Mrs. A. B. Funk, C. E. Hoskinson, W. F. Kubichek, Wier R. Mills, Arthur J. Palas, Fred J. Pierce, Walter M. Rose, Arthur T. Watson, A. J. Weber, and Wm. Youngworth. Most of these people are also members of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union.

* * *

In the death of Dr. L. H. Pammel, botanist, on March 23, 1931, the cause of Iowa conservation lost a staunch friend and benefactor. Dr. Pammel was born in Wisconsin in 1862 and came to Iowa State College at Ames in 1889. For the last forty years he has been connected with that institution. A number of years ago he became interested in a movement to preserve tracts of land having natural or scenic interest for Iowa parks, and as a result of his activities and those of his fellow workers, Iowa now has a fine chain of state

parks. One state park, in Madison County, was recently renamed Panmel Park in appreciation of his services to the state. His monumental work, "Weed Flora of Iowa," is a classic in the field of botany, and is likely to remain a standard reference work for many years to come.

* * *

IOWA BIRD-LIFE

is sent free to all members of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union. Membership dues (including subscription) are one dollar a year. Special rate for all libraries, public or college, fifty cents a year. Those living outside of Iowa may obtain the journal for fifty cents a year. All dues are payable January 1.

Editor—Fred J. Pierce, Winthrop, Iowa.

Asst. Editor—C. E. Hoskinson, Clarinda, Iowa

Orders for reprints from articles or extra copies of the journal must be in the hands of the editor before publication. Please notify the editor promptly of change of address and state whether the new address is permanent or temporary.

Field Notes on Iowa birds, book news, and historical or biographical material pertaining to Iowa ornithology are desired for publication.

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